



A RECIPE FOR GROWTH

| HOW TO GROW A PLANT | HOW TO GROW A PARENT LEADER |
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| First, start with a seed. | First you need a parent. Look in your group, program or community. |
| Put the seed in soil wherever a plant is needed. | Identify a place for the parent to grow in: a group, an assignment, a committee, a board. |
| Make sure it is where the sunlight can reach it. | Ask the parent's opinion or give him or her task. |
| Weed and remove obstacles (rocks, sticks) that might stunt the plant's growth. | Support the parent with child care, travel reimbursement, etc. and remove any impediments in the way. |
| Fertilize and water. | Support the parent by providing opportunities, and help when needed. |
| Step back and watch it grow. | Step back and watch the parent grow! |
| Prune; pinch a leaf or two, maybe put in a stake to hold it up. | Offer suggestions, additional training (speaking, writing). Prop them up when things don't go as planned. |
| Harvest seeds, grow another plant. | Watch the parent support and nurture other parents. |
| Enjoy the beauty of what you have grown. | Enjoy the wonder of parent leadership. |

Circle of Parents® celebrates National Parent Leadership Month®, February 2006, as a co-sponsor with Parents Anonymous®
 For more information about Circle of Parents go to www.circleofparents.org.